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A N
A D D R E S S
T O T H E
E L E C T O R S
O F
G R E A T - B R I T A I N ,

Electors of K

C H O I C E of M E M B E R S to serve them in
P A R L I A M E N T, so as to render the Nation that
essential Service which its Distresses so greatly demand
at this I M P O R T A N T C R I S I S.

To which is added,
T h e T E S T of P A T R I O T I S M.

B Y A
L O V E R of his K I N G and C O U N T R Y.

L O N D O N:
Printed for M. L E W I S and Son, in Pater-noster-Row. 1768.
[Price Six-pence.]

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AN
ADDRESS
TO THE
ELECTORS
OF
GREAT-BRITAIN

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1221/9



THE TEST OF PATRIOTISM.

LOVER OF HIS KING AND COUNTRY.

LONDON:

Printed for M. L. [illegible] in [illegible] 1844.

A N
A D D R E S S
T O T H E
E L E C T O R S, &c.

My dear Countrymen,

PERMIT me to intimate to you, that there never was a more important crisis than the present: a crisis so big with every event, which may fix the lasting happiness or misery of our country, that it requires all your attention, all your efforts, both as men and Britons, to prove you have its real and lasting honour and happiness truly at heart; and this you will have a fair opportunity of shewing in the approaching choice of Members to represent you in the next parliament.

LET me then intreat you upon this interesting occasion, to acquit yourselves as men

penetrated with a deep and just sense of your duty, and generously to sacrifice every private interest to the public good: and may heaven reward this love of your country with a seven-fold increase of happiness! Let the meanest Briton possess himself with a consciousness of his own importance to the welfare of the state; and then, if you yourselves do not tamely give up or barter away your inherent birthright as Esau did his for a mess of pottage (which ought to be more precious to you than silver and gold) your liberties, and your properties, and all the blessings handed down to you by your virtuous ancestors are safe, and the British constitution is invulnerable. But on the contrary, if you are regardless of these inestimable blessings, and sink into the lap of supineness, or the arms of men who may be ready to purchase you at any price but that of virtue, which they cannot give (though they may strip you of it) I shudder at the fatal consequences, both with respect to yourselves and the nation.

DETEST then the sordid bribe, let it be offered to you under the most engaging address, or the most specious pretence. Captivating

tivating and fair it may appear to the eye, and a thing much to be desired, yet there is hid under it a most deadly poison, which, if you but touch it, will, like the bite of a viper, diffuse its venom through your body, and the body-politic, prey upon the vitals of both, and at last bring destruction upon yourselves as well as upon the noblest of human structures, the British constitution.

You who are in humble stations of life, let me intreat you to be contented with that humble station. Believe me, it is a safe retreat from many a tempestuous storm. Entertain not the least thought of selling your peace to better your circumstances, and exalt yourselves upon the ruins of your country; if you do, remember I now tell you, you will experimentally feel it a dear-bought purchase. Reflect upon this great truth, that happiness consists not in riches, but in a contented mind, which the possession of all the mines of Peru and Mexico cannot give; it is solely the gift of God, which virtue alone can prepare you to receive; and intirely to acquiesce in the all-wise disposals of his Providence (who knows what condition is best for every man) is one of
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the surest ways to obtain it. The humble cottager often rejoices in the actual possession of it, from a heart turned to God and goodness, the fountain from whence it can only flow, whilst the sordid miser, and the proud and stately Lord, with their thousands, for want of the same blessed tendency of mind, are not only strangers to it, but often groaning under an oppressive load of misery. Reason enough, surely, for the poor man to be contented with his lot.

And now permit me to offer a word or two to you who move in superior stations of life; and especially to you ye generous and uncorrupted youth, who are just entering upon the great theatre of the world to act your parts, and whose untried virtues, it must be confessed, will be put to the severest test, when you will see virtue in contempt, and vice triumphant, and yourselves beset with the strong temptations of pensions, places, and titles continually swimming before your eyes; and men old enough to know better things, and to instruct you in true wisdom by their own examples, scrambling as eagerly after them as if the summum bonum, or ultimate happiness of man consisted

consisted in their acquisition. In this universal depravity and extinction of every generous and virtuous sentiment, how do I tremble, lest you should be swallowed up in this general gulph of temptation, whilst I yet hope you will preserve yourselves unspotted in a venal and corrupt age! Let me then, dear youth, intreat you not to swim with the current. Set before you the virtuous great of former times, since your own unhappily afford you none, as examples worthy of your imitation. Think how that real Patriot ANDREW MARVELL, though pressed with narrow circumstances, and in an abandoned reign, stood up as it were alone, stemming the torrent of general corruption, and nobly disdaining the ministerial bribe, and every offer of place or pension to allure him from the steady pursuit of his country's good.

As old men are callous, hardened in trespasses and sins, and dead to every thing but their own self-interest, unless they have imbibed virtuous principles in their early youth; so it is chiefly upon you, and those experienced patriots which a gracious Providence may raise up in this time of great need, that our expectations

pectations are built. From most of the present actors upon the stage, experience has taught us, we have little to hope though much to fear, being destitute of that true greatness of soul, which constitutes the real patriot, and which the important state of the times demands. Our evils, indeed, are so manifold and complicated, that it requires a heaven-born spirit and discernment to trace them to the fountain-head; and when they are discovered, a virtue and resolution of the same nature to remove them. But where are men so qualified to be found? Perspicuity of judgment, and goodness of heart united, are uncommon productions in an age pregnant with every species of vice and folly.

WE flatter ourselves however, that in the approaching day of trial you will exert your best endeavours, and not disappoint the favourable expectations we have formed of you, but that many youthful MARVELLS will arise in the land, to re-kindle and diffuse that long extinguished fire of steady Patriotism which animated the breasts of Worthies of former times. We will hope, that by your example, the two principal causes of all our evils

evils, a profusion of luxury on the one hand, and an all-devouring covetousness on the other, often united in one and the same person, and hid under the mask of mock-patriotism, will be abashed and forced to depart together into their own native dark abode, that sweet domestic peace and smiling plenty may be again diffused among us.

THE destruction of this two-headed monster, luxury and covetousness, which has extended its baneful influence over the nation, is so essential to our happiness, and indeed to our very existence, that it is sufficient to awaken, in the bloom of uncorrupted youth, every opening virtue to effect it: and as the first step to so important a conquest, let me intreat both young and old, that have any feeling for their country, any love of virtue and detestation of vice, to stop one source from which that monster derives so much strength and support, Bribery and Corruption.

LET us all bring it home to our hearts, and consider, that no kingdom can long hold up its head, much less support its grandeur, when the individuals of which it is composed are become capable of being bought and sold.

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Bribery

Bribery and corruption, luxury and rage, stript the Roman and Grecian commonwealths of all their glory, levelling them with the dust: and as the same causes must ever produce the same effects, so Britain will most assuredly share the same fate, unless her sons look upon their honour and liberties as the most immediate jewels of their souls.

IF it should happen that any man shall get into the senate upon such detestable terms, then you, who are, in such case the mean deserters of your country's cause, have only to blame yourselves, if your liberties, your properties, and your lives, are all sooner or later made a sacrifice of to mammon. If you are become so venal as to be bought, what wonder is it if you yourselves are set up to sale to the highest bidder?

BUT, my dear countrymen, I would fain hope better things of the lowest Briton, when his own, his children's, and his country's happiness are all at stake; and that the DETESTED THING, Bribery and Corruption, will be far removed from his innocent, though humble, cot. All the riches of both the Indies cannot make the poorest man a recompence

pence for the sacrifice of his peace, his honour, and his integrity; all which are herein deeply concerned, just according as he takes a true or false oath, or votes for or against the dictates of his own conscience. And if any one of you have been unhappily ensnared by the delusive bait, let me intreat you, as you value your peace of mind here, and everlasting happiness hereafter, that you will, before it is too late to repent, return it to its cruel and ungenerous donor, who would rob you of that for which there can be no recompence.

VERY awful was the judgment of God upon a woman at the Devizes'-market in Wiltshire, about twelve years ago, who, upon buying some commodity in conjunction with some of her neighbours, through a covetous disposition, held back her share of the purchase-money, at the same time wishing a curse upon herself if she had not paid it; though upon searching, the money was found upon her. No sooner had she uttered the imprecation, than, to the astonishment of the beholders, she instantly dropt down dead: and there is a memorial of it fixed up in the

market-place, which I saw myself last year, as an awful admonition and benevolent warning to every one to beware of covetousness, that is so often attended with such marks of the divine displeasure. And if you, upon the approaching Election, should, through a sordid covetous disposition, take a bribe, either directly or indirectly, and thereby incur the guilt of perjury; as yours will be a more deliberate act than the above, as well as a crime of a more aggravated and deeper dye, so it must be great presumption in you to expect to escape the punishment so justly due to so notorious an offence both against God and man. And as this business of elections is made such a mystery of iniquity, as thus often to plunge the poor soul into great and inconceivable misery; a most melancholy instance of which, is related at large by a worthy country clergyman, author of the late 'Address to the voters of Great-Britain:' so I deem it a great happiness, if it was only upon this account, that it comes about but once in seven years, unless it was under better regulations. But it must be further confessed, that it presents one with a most melancholy picture of human nature:

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for what do we see but a continual scene of intemperance in eating and drinking, and every wanton abuse of God's creatures which can disgrace humanity? and such an habit of idleness and dissipation is then acquired, as is hardly to be shook off: all which is of infinite hurt, even to the circumstances as well as the bodies of the common class of people. And with respect to the soul, which is the least thought of, though of the greatest concern; what dark passions are then awakened in the breasts of the elected as well as the electors? That multiplicity of evil that before lay hid in the heart, fiercely breaks forth, and spreads its diabolical influence throughout the kingdom, setting man against man, and too often brother against brother; and the violence of the contention has often not subsided, till the fatal period returns, which re-kindles it again. When all this is seriously reflected upon, one cannot but wish, if not for the common happiness of society, yet for the honour of human nature, and to cast a shade over its deformity, that some better method was thought of, of electing members to serve us:] and as I believe a much better, in every respect, has
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been humanely suggested to our superiors, viz. That of balloting, so I think there could not be a greater instance of compassion shewn to the souls and bodies of men, than their immediately adopting and putting it in practice.

BUT since the consequences of pursuing a wrong course in this important concern, is often so fatal to the peace of our souls, if you should ask me what path you are to follow, so as to meet with the approbation of your own hearts, the best of all rewards, and to do your country the most essential service? I answer, The path of honour, integrity and virtue; all which, if you open the eyes of your mind, shine upon it as bright as the sun in its meridian splendor; so that it is impossible, unless you are blinded with gold, the god of this world, and the plague of the heart of man, as well as the death of every divine and human virtue, that you should mistake the path which leads to your own and your country's good

REGARDLESS then of every other consideration, chuse men to serve you of unblemished characters, whose words are sacred, and whose hearts are upright, fearing God,
and

and devoted to their country's welfare. In such men you are sure you can never be deceived nor disappointed; they will answer your most sanguine expectations. If you are so fortunate as to have such men in your respective counties, cities and boroughs, then happy are ye, for they are THE EXCELLENT OF THE EARTH and of *inestimable value*. These are the men that are to be the objects of your choice, and whom you are to receive with open arms; and if they do not present themselves, you ought to find them out, as Cincinnatus was found at the plough, and make them a voluntary offer of being your representatives at this most Important Crisis.

As I have thus pointed out to you such men as you ought to adopt for your members, so I will now point out to you such men as you ought to reject, if they offer you their service; and this from an impartial sincere love of my country, not intending to give offence to any denomination of men, since all may be useful members of society in their proper and respective stations: but let us ever bear this self-evident principle in remembrance, that all private interest must be sacrificed

ficed when it stands in competition with the public good. Without the least hesitation, then, reject, as the dead weight of a house of commons, all place-men and pensioners, officers of the army and navy, lawyers, merchants, and directors of public companies; and for this unanswerable reason, because experience has taught us, that the one half of them have generally turned out the tools of a corrupt ministry, and the other half, if not so venal, yet often slaves to their own anxious pursuits after riches; and that all of them are too attentive to their own interest, to pay due attention to yours.

If after these most friendly cautions and admonitions, to the truth and justness of which your own hearts cannot but bear testimony, you make choice of such men, do not wonder at the woful disappointment in your expectations from them, of relieving your country from the manifold calamities it is labouring under, but blame only yourselves for it, and be for ever dumb: open not your mouth against them, since the unnatural choice has been your own act, whatever may be the fatal consequences. But perhaps you may ask me,
What

What would you have us do with such a numerous corps of men as I have rejected? I answer, They have all of them business enough upon their hands at home, if they make a point of conscience of faithfully discharging it. The place-man's duty is to execute the business of his office himself, and not meanly submit to the unjust substitution of a deputy. The military gentlemen cannot be more nobly employed, than in strictly training and disciplining the men of their respective departments, that both army and navy may be always ready to defend their king and country upon the most sudden attack. The directors of the public companies are, by their common transactions, too much connected with the ministry, and too much obliged to them for the douceurs they receive upon every loan and contract, to lay any claim to the essential characters of disinterestedness and impartiality. Besides, the nation's treasure is committed to their care; a trust of such vast importance, that it ought to be watched night and day, with the same assiduity as the Vestal Virgins watched the sacred fire! and the faithful discharge of it will always produce employment, ho-

nour and profit, fully commensurate to their abilities and their worth. The business of the merchant, who is much to be respected in his proper character, and when he keeps within the just boundaries of trade, not making it the ultimate object of life, is to attend to his imports and exports, and ballance his profits and losses, that he may carefully shun bankruptcy on the one hand, and, on the other, an injurious accumulation of hundreds of thousands. And if he has talents that carry him to higher things, let them be seasonably devoted to the improvement of the manufactures and commerce of the nation: a higher service cannot be expected from him; for a counting-house is not the school to form patriots and statesmen, qualified to comprehend and ballance the interests of Europe, or indeed the true interest of our own country. As to the gentlemen of the law, who boast of its *glorious uncertainty*, as the great source of their wealth and power, we are already too much under their dominion. Alas! when will the many hundred waggon loads of bulky volumes, in which it is contained, be reduced into one CODE, and all law-suits finished within

within the year? When will dear-bought experience open our eyes, that we may see our folly, or rather learn that wisdom that will restrain us from contention, and so preserve our properties from being swallowed up in an insatiable and bottomless gulph? When will that peaceful golden age return, when, like the temple of Janus, Westminster-Hall shall be shut up, and the voices of hireling pleaders be heard no more in our land? The pensioner may complain, that I bring him under my review in the last place. This I have done on account of the unworthiness of his character, and because I have been at a loss to assign him any particular employment, so as to render him useful to society. He is an animal of the locust kind, which the natural richness of our soil has invited to dwell amongst us; and accordingly great swarms are found here as well as in our sister-country; but as they have devoured up the choicest fruits of the earth, and greatly contributed to create a dearth amongst us; it is to be wished, that some happy blast would sweep them away to a quarter of the world, that is more able than our own to support an animal of such a devouring nature.

If any of these worthy gentlemen should condescend to make you a visit, you are to keep a watchful jealous eye upon them, since, for the most part, they turn out the most wretched patriots, and the worst supporters of a falling state. Your true wisdom, then you see, evidently consists, in selecting to serve you as your representatives in parliament, country gentlemen of independent fortunes and unblemished characters, unoccupied in business, and free from the temptations of private gain, and whose hearts glow with the ardent love of their king and their country.

My dear countrymen, as a choice like this, and this alone, will secure to you and your posterity, your liberties, your properties, and every earthly blessing sacredly transmitted down to you by your venerable and virtuous ancestors, and will establish, upon a rock that cannot be shaken, the lasting happiness and glory of your country; so it is my fervent prayers, that Heaven may inspire your hearts, favourably to receive and put in practice this (as I please myself you will think) most friendly and salutary advice,

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spontaneously flowing from a heart which cannot be warped by any attachment to party, because I am of none, but live as a meer spectator of human life, and as it were a stranger upon earth, compared with the busy scene of action that is passing before me. Though I am not conscious of having said a syllable, which, as a Briton and a lover of my country, I ought not to have said, as tending to the general good; yet I apprehend, from the great depravity of the times, that I shall receive little thanks from some quarters, and perhaps much hatred and abuse from others: but as I wrote this Address through an unfeigned intention of being useful to the public in my little sphere of action; so the pleasure resulting from that intention, will be my sufficient reward. I throw it then as my mite into the public treasury, and beg leave to subscribe my self,

My dear Countrymen,

March 1,
1768.

Your most affectionate

Humble Servant,

A Lover of my King and Country.

postponedly arising from a heart which can
not be withheld by any attachment to party
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My dear Countrymen,

A Lover of my King and Country



THE
TEST
OF
PATRIOTISM.

TIME, the discoverer of all things, has sadly proved, that Patriotism, amongst the many great pretenders to it, is with respect to them a vain and empty name: yet, when I reflect upon the virtue of former ages, I cannot but think it must still have some existence amongst the sons of men: and as our country now lies bleeding under the many wounds, which it has from time to time received from her pretended friends, as well as real foes; and as no expedient has yet been found out to preserve it from

from its approaching ruin, I have one humbly to offer, which, if put in execution, would not only prove of a most salutary nature, but would be an assured Test of the real existence or non-existence of Patriotism.

My proposal is this, That we come to real action, from words to things; and as the nation is encumbered, and sinking under an amazing load of national debt, that every real patriot would step forth, and of his abundance generously throw something into the public treasury, to lessen the enormous load which hangs like an impending mountain ready to tumble upon our heads. Such a noble exertion of public spirit, at this Important Crisis, when it is so much wanted, would justly entitle us to the name of Patriots indeed: and if something of this nature is not speedily done, we have all of us reason to dread the fatal consequences, unless phoenix-like we can happily arise out of our own ashes.

I should be glad, upon putting the love of our country to this severe test, that our land might be found to abound and overflow as much with Patriots, as the land of Canaan when

when in its glory abounded and overflowed with milk and honey. And though I myself hold no place nor pension, yet I hold my country dear; and therefore, for this most laudable purpose, am ready chearfully to present my humble offering, which, though not equal to my wishes, is according to my ability. Let every man do the same; especially the many wealthy Nabobs who have poured in upon us the luxuriant riches of the East; and others, who, to the disgrace of human nature in these calamitous times, have amassed vast over-grown fortunes, and whose thousands, thus well bestowed, would not upon a ballance be equal to my mite; we should then soon be enabled to lessen our numerous and heavy taxes that bear so hard upon all ranks of people, but especially upon the industrious mechanic and laborious poor: the happy consequences of which would soon be felt, and joy and gladness of heart would take place of drooping desponding melancholy, and be diffused throughout the land.

Now if any one, who profanes the sacred name of Patriot, should stand forth

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in the spirit of opposition to ridicule so rational, so practical a proposal as this is, and affect to treat it as an utopian scheme; let him know, that however he may thunder in the senate, and pathetically lament the calamities of his country, yet he may be assured he is a stranger to the real love of it in his heart; and all his laboured harangues for the hour together, are as empty as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal; for genuine love will ever give forth its own proper fruits.

THE antient Romans, whose names are held so justly dear, and stand the admiration of all succeeding ages in this important concern, when the glory and happiness of their country were at stake, or even stood in opposition to their own, hesitated not one moment to sacrifice their fortunes, and even their lives, in so glorious a cause. When the ground opened to a prodigious depth in the Forum, and the oracle being consulted upon the occasion, declared that something the most valuable they had was indispensibly necessary to be offered up as a sacrifice to appease the
offended

offended Gods, how nobly did the young and generous Curtius, a Roman knight, disdain life, come forth, and mounting his horse, leap headlong into the earth, which opened wide its bosom gladly to receive him as the appeaser of the Gods, and the averter of his country's ruin! Which of our modern Patriots would now imitate this great example, though it would raise his country to the highest pitch of happiness and glory? Alas! are you all struck dumb? what! no reply? I will then speak for you. There is not one of you, but would shudder at the thought of being thus a self-devoted victim: so far do you fall short of the patriotic virtues of an antient Roman.

IF Marcus Junius Brutus, the public's father; Fabricius, whom gold could not conquer; Regulus, of rigid faith; the gentle Scipio, humanely brave, and learning's friend; or Cincinnatus, of untainted probity, and saluted consul from the plough, to which he nobly returned again poor and empty as he came, when his country no longer required his needful aid; and such-like revered worthies, could now rise up amongst

us, how would they be astonished, and how incredible would it appear to them, to be told, that, in these degenerate times of avarice and corruption, luxury and rage, every futile statesman, whose wretched counsels instead of a blessing may have proved a disgrace if not a curse to the nation, demanded a pension for himself, his sons, and perhaps his grand-sons for life, when he was dismissed from that post which never wanted him, and for which nature had never formed him, although he had been more than sufficiently paid during his so uselessly or hurtfully holding it: and if this modest request was not complied with, the immediate consequence was a declaration of war, threatening to oppose and overthrow those very measures, to which before, by his advice, he had given a sanction!

O ye degenerate unnatural sons of Britain! what do I feel for you? but when will ye feel for yourselves, and be struck with compunction at thus living upon the vitals of your bleeding country, disgracing the very name of Patriot, and bringing destruction upon yourselves, as well as upon

upon one of the noblest of human structures, the British Constitution, reared by the tender care of our Alfred's, Edward's, Henry's, Cecil's, Walsingham's, Raleigh's, &c. the numerous and mighty dead of former ages! When will you have the modesty to blush and hide your heads, at this deplorable degeneracy from the spirit of the antient Romans, and your venerable and virtuous ancestors? a degeneracy so great, that a real Patriot is now become as great a phænomenon, as an honest man was in the days of the philosopher, who lighted his candle in the mid-day sun to find one out! It is said in sacred writ, "That God would have saved Sodom for ten righteous sake:" and if half that number, even five righteous Patriots, were to be found amongst us, we might hope that God would save a falling state for those five righteous sake.

BEFORE it is too late, let me then intreat you to think of these things. Repent and turn each of you from the corruption of your ways: cease to do evil; learn to do good: and then when you have forgiven yourselves, God and your country will

will forgive you also. Drop all animosity and strife amongst yourselves. Be dead to all struggling and contention about places, pensions, and vain and empty titles; which, when fond deluded man hath obtained, have most frequently for their companions, vexation, disappointment, and remorse. These have been too much and too long the bone of contention amongst you, to the utter extinction of almost every social and patriotic virtue. You have all of you been weighed in the ballances and are found wanting. Go on then no longer in the blind workings of your own depraved natures, doing and undoing you know not what nor wherefore, but seek out for the hidden gold of Ophir, for men, if such are to be found, of real probity, goodness, and piety, (for these essential virtues, and not specious abilities and selfish cunning, are now wanted) and generously resign up to them the helm of government. Though they are as poor as Cincinnatus the Roman consul, regard not that, if they have but his virtues. This do for your King's, your own, and your country's sake; for be well assured of this, that

that where there is no piety, or love of God, there there is no love of country, no love of man. When this important point is settled, no longer perplex and distract the state from a spirit of opposition, which is the spirit of hell itself, but heartily concur in the measures which THE EXCELLENT whom you have thus chosen, shall deem necessary for the common good. And if, to crown the whole, you will endeavour as much as you can, by your own examples, to diffuse a spirit of vital religion throughout the nation, and teach us to love and adore the Supreme Good, from whom every blessing flows, and who alone can save us from ourselves, from the dark passions of covetousness, pride, envy, and wrath; then will you be the beloved of God and every good man; and we shall become again a great and happy people: for “happy
 “ are the people that are in such a
 “ state; yea blessed are the people who
 “ have the Lord for their God!”

F I N I S.